

SWP fights for right to be on the ballot in Pennsylvania

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania state authorities are laying the groundwork to deny ballot status for Chris Hoeppe, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Philadelphia's 3rd District. A national effort is being launched by the SWP to prepare for this fight.

In a very successful petitioning

'Militant' renewal drive goes over the top
— See article on page 3

drive, Hoeppe, a freight rail conductor and member of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Union (SMART), and SWP campaign supporters gathered 2,422 signatures to put him on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. This is more than double the 1,000 signatures state election officials said were required, and posted on their election website, when new districts were approved earlier this

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Rail workers protest for jobs, pay, right to strike

Unions organize rally in Illinois, more planned



Militant/Naomi Craine

Some 150 union members and supporters rally July 30 in Galesburg, Illinois, to protest drive by major U.S. rail bosses to impose contract to increase profits off workers' backs.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

GALESBURG, Ill. — More than 150 railroad workers, family members and their supporters joined in the "Galesburg Rally for Rail Labor" here July 30, one of a series of protests being organized by rail workers across the Midwest as part of their fight to win a new contract. This

western Illinois town is a major hub for BNSF Railway, with freight lines spreading out in all directions.

The action brought together track maintenance workers, conductors, engineers and workers from other rail crafts. Eleven different unions are currently in contract negotiations together with the seven national Class 1 freight carriers, which includes BNSF, the second largest in the country. Participants marched around Central Park, a large downtown traffic circle, and listened to speakers.

Issues include pay, which has been frozen since 2019; boss demands for increased health insurance costs; job cuts; and the right to strike. The freight rail bosses have slashed their workforce by

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Italian gov't falls as rulers across Europe confront growing conflicts

BY TERRY EVANS

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi resigned, and his government coalition collapsed July 21, the same day the European Central Bank boosted interest rates, sharply raising the cost of loan repayments for the more heavily indebted capitalist powers across the southern eurozone. The political crisis facing the Italian rulers is exacerbated by the unfolding worldwide economic slowdown, Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and the instability underlying the European Union.

Italy's propertied rulers preside over the third-largest capitalist economy in the EU, but their government

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Support Ukraine independence! Russian troops get out now!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

It is now more than five months since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent tens of thousands of troops storming into Ukraine to overthrow the elected government, seize the country and obliterate Ukraine as a nation.

Ukrainian forces have resisted courageously and, despite Moscow's overwhelming advantage in population and firepower, have fought the Russian forces to a standstill. And driven them back from Kyiv and other major targets.

While Moscow's troops had made some modest gains in eastern and southern Ukraine, at great sacrifice and demoralization in their ranks, they're now stalled, save for deadly artillery and missile attacks on civilian areas across the country.

Some Russian troops are moving out of the Donetsk region hoping to shore up Moscow's occupation in the southern regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia and stop a pending Ukrainian counteroffensive there.

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Join fight to end ban on 'Militant' at federal prison in Arizona!

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the first attempt since 2018 by federal prison authorities to suppress the *Militant*, the warden at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix rejected an issue of the paper June 29 that had been sent to an inmate subscriber there.

The warden gave no reason for banning the socialist newsweekly, issue no. 23, other than the false claim that it contains "political extremism and is detrimental to the security, good order,

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New York event celebrates opening battle for Cuba's socialist revolution



Militant/Mike Shur

Internationalism and solidarity have guided Cuba's revolution since its beginning with attack on Moncada barracks, July 26, 1953, Cuban Ambassador Yuri Gala told N.Y. forum July 30. Seated from left, Chris Hoeppe, SWP candidate in Philadelphia, and chair Róger Calero.

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations, Yuri Gala López, and Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Steve Clark were the featured speakers at a July 30 meeting here to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the attack led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrison in Bayamo. The July 26, 1953, assault was a response to the military coup by

U.S.-backed tyrant Fulgencio Batista the previous year.

While the assault failed to capture the garrisons and arm the insurgent working people of Santiago — 56 of 160 combatants were murdered in cold blood by the regime, five died in battle and 32 were imprisoned — it proved to be the opening battle for Cuba's socialist revolution.

What Cubans now call National Rebellion Day "marked the beginning of

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Teamsters make gains in strike at FireKing in Indiana

Rail workers strike in UK for pay raise, against job cuts

Italian gov't falls in Europe crisis

Continued from front page

is the second-most indebted and faces the lowest growth forecast of any country in the bloc.

For years the rulers in Germany have used their economic and political domination of the EU to squeeze their rivals and the working classes in the weaker capitalist countries that make up southern Europe. Workers in Greece especially, but also in Italy and Spain, were subject to massive job cuts and the slashing of social services following the 2008 financial crash.

Youth unemployment still stands at more than 20% in Italy. New manufacturing orders across the EU dropped last month, with Italy hit hardest. Orders there plunged at the sharpest rate since the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020.

Alongside this, inflation in Italy hit 8.5% on an annual basis in June. Costs for necessities that working people depend on rose much higher. Utility bills soared 28.1% and transportation costs increased 13.1%. Cabin crews, air traffic controllers and pilots at several airlines struck for the third time in a month July 17, demanding bosses reverse pay cuts and provide meals and water to crews on longer flights.

A former European Central Bank chief, Draghi was appointed, not elected, prime minister last year to head up a “national unity” government in Rome and deal with the deepening crisis facing the country’s rulers. The EU responded by agreeing to give Italy 200 billion euros in post-pandemic relief over the next four years. The handout came with several conditions, as is usually the price for such concessions. These include demands that Rome step

up privatization of state-owned companies and cut government debt, at the expense of working people.

Draghi quit when three parties in his government coalition refused to back him in a no-confidence vote, reflecting a political crisis for Italy’s capitalist rulers. New elections are set for Sept. 25. A coalition of conservative parties more hostile to the EU is ahead in the polls. It includes former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia.

Fantasy of a European superstate

Now a bloc of 27 states, the EU was established out of the carnage of the second imperialist war with hopes of rivaling Washington, which had emerged as the world’s dominant imperialist power. But prospects for forming a common European superstate were always a fantasy given the intractable conflicts underlying capitalist nations and their inevitable competition for markets, resources and profits. The current worldwide economic slowdown sharpens the fissures tearing at the bloc’s seams.

For the first time since 2011 the European Central Bank raised interest rates in an attempt to rein in inflation. This makes it more expensive for the rulers in the most indebted governments in the bloc to repay loans. Across the 19 countries using the euro, inflation varies widely, from 6.8% in France to 22.7% in Estonia.

All the capitalist rulers adopting the “common currency” of the euro abandoned the power held by their central banks to set interest rates or to print money. Most capitalist governments try to buffer the impact of economic crises and get ahead of rivals by devaluing



Mauro Scrobogna/La Presse via AP

Taxi drivers protest working conditions in Rome July 13 outside office of former Prime Minister Mario Draghi. The Italian government collapsed, Draghi resigned July 21 amid EU tensions.

their own currencies to fuel exports and production, but this is closed to euro-zone members, who have no national currency. From its birth in 1999 the euro’s stability has been undermined by the conflicts among the rival powers that it pretends to join together, to the advantage of the German rulers.

At recent acrimonious EU summits, officials have fought over whether the strongest capitalist states — Germany and France — will extend their domination, or be saddled with the mounting debts of their weaker adversaries. The European Commission threatened to sanction the Italian government in 2018 when it adopted a budget that broke with EU rules.

Last year the liberal editors of the *Economist* castigated Italian workers for the country’s yearslong crisis, blaming them for electing politicians like Berlusconi who prioritized what they saw as Italy’s special interests, and who needed to be told to “shut up and behave.”

Russian invasion boosts EU tensions

The war in Ukraine is the largest in Europe since World War II. It has led to shifts in the U.S.-dominated “world order,” causing rival capitalist ruling classes to reassess how best to protect their national interests.

Exacerbating conflicts within the EU are looming energy shortages as

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia
Defend the Right of the Socialist Workers Party to Get on the Ballot. Speakers: Chris Hoeppe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress; Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Aug. 6, 6 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Tel.: (215) 708-1270.

Nat’l Federation of Blind fights for jobs, rights

The National Federation of the Blind was formed to organize toilers who are blind or low vision to fight for themselves. The organization’s aims and priorities were discussed at the group’s July convention. The ‘Militant’ covers the fight of all working people for our rights.



Militant/Gale Shangold

Volunteer shows how Pathfinder e-book files can be read by people who are blind.

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Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

SWP fights for right to ballot!

Continued from front page year. Petitioning was set to run from March 16 to Aug. 1.

Hoeppner filed his nominating petitions July 27 at the secretary of state’s office in Harrisburg.

When state officials reviewed Hoeppner’s petitions, he and campaign attorney Larry Otter were informed the party had filed enough signatures for ballot status, barring an outside challenge. But they also said the requirement had been raised to 2,300 — more than double the official figure on their website!

When asked how and when this change had been made and publicized, an official said he didn’t know for sure, but was told it had been posted on Twitter in mid-July. An exhaustive search by campaign supporters uncovered a Twitter posting from July 14 by the Pennsylvania Department of State — four months after petitioning opened in the state, and just two weeks before the deadline for filing signatures — saying the requirements had been “corrected.” The Twitter posting linked people to a totally new election website.

SWP National Campaign Director John Studer affirmed that on July 29, two days after the SWP submitted their signatures, the required figure on the new state’s website still was reported as 1,000. It was not until July 30, a day before the Aug. 1 deadline to turn in petitions, that was it changed to 2,300 for District 3. Changes were made in requirements for other districts, but none anywhere as high as for Hoeppner’s district.

“This is just outrageous and a threat to the political rights of the Socialist Workers Party, any other working-class candidate who should decide to break from the Democrats and Republicans, all those who support our campaign and the working class. The SWP will fight tooth and nail against any attempt to keep our

campaign off the ballot,” Hoeppner told the *Militant*.

Objections to any party’s nominating petitions must be filed by Aug. 8. State and election officials say hearings may then start as early as Aug. 15.

Campaign supporters have begun talking with co-workers, union officials, church groups and individuals from political and social organizations to urge them to be prepared to speak out against this attack. The SWP will begin immediately to raise funds to help finance this fight.

Otter and Michael Krinsky, a lawyer from the well-known political rights firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, are ready for a legal challenge, if needed, to demand Hoeppner be placed on the ballot.

The new state election website, vote.pa.gov, also says that mail-in and absentee ballots are already being sent out, although there are dozens of independent and third party candidates who have filed to run.

SWP gets a hearing

Campaign supporters in Pennsylvania have traveled all over the state, meeting with working people on their doorsteps, at plant gates, strike picket lines, store parking lots, farmers markets and elsewhere, introducing thousands to the party and its slate of candidates. The SWP ticket in Pennsylv-



Chris Hoeppner, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Philadelphia, talks with Theodore Ramsen, left, and Sedia Ali at farmers market July 16, two of the 2,422 who signed petition to put him on ballot. SWP is preparing to fight any effort by the state to deny SWP ballot status.

vania includes Osborne Hart for U.S. Senate and Candace Wagner, a freight rail conductor in Pittsburgh and member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, for governor, as well as Hoeppner.

During the petitioning effort 59 people who signed for the SWP got subscriptions to the *Militant* along with 46 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. While most campaign teams took place in Philadelphia, where Hoeppner’s district is based, several went to small towns and rural areas around Lebanon County, Her-

shey, Allentown and West Chester.

An article by reporter Bill Rettew, who went door-to-door with Hoeppner and Wagner, appeared Aug. 1 in the West Chester *Daily Local News*. At the end, Rettew said, “He likes the idea of having more than two choices.”

To send a message of protest or for more information, contact: The 2022 Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Party Campaign, 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19149, Email: philaswp@verizon.net. Telephone: (215) 708-1270.

‘Militant’ drive to win long-term readers goes over top!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant*’s summer drive to expand the paper’s long-term readership has gone over the top! The five-week international effort for renewals by members of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. and the Communist Leagues in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U.K. won 372 long-term readers. They also sold 357 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionary fighters to subscribers.

“Many readers pointed to the *Militant*’s coverage of labor movement struggles as one reason they find the paper invaluable,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “Combined with articles on the fight for independence of Ukraine, and the paper’s coverage of all today’s key political questions from a working-class point of view, many now look to the *Militant* as their paper, essential for understanding and acting in today’s world.

“And in a month or so,” Studer added, “the *Militant* will launch an ambitious effort to reach more working people in cities, small towns and rural areas. Combined with expanded use of SWP election campaigns this fall, SWP members will be organizing an eight-week drive, Sept. 17-Nov. 15 to sell 1,750 *Militant* subscriptions, 1,850 books and raise \$145,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund.”

Meeting the goals during the renewal drive has enabled SWP members to get to know workers who have been reading the paper, hear what they think about its coverage and discuss how we can work together in the months to come.

Likes paper’s world coverage

SWP members Seth Galinsky and Willie Cotton met Precious Fasakin, a research fellow on African economy, for coffee in New York, July 31. She

subscribed to the *Militant* at a film showing of “Sankara’s Orphans” several months ago and said she liked the paper because it reports on workers struggles all over the world.

Academia “lives in a bubble” and has no understanding of what is happening in the lives of working people, she said. “It’s like two different worlds.” Most university programs claim they want diversity, but “they mean different skin colors, but they don’t really want diversity in points of view.”

“What we’re for is more debate and discussion,” said Galinsky, “not closing down opposing viewpoints. Working people need this. But we’re not neutral. We have a viewpoint that we fight to win fellow workers to — the need to organize in our millions to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government.”

Fasakin renewed her subscription for a year and bought three books: *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*; *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; and *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*.

At the July 22-24 conference of the National Organization for Women in Chicago, SWP members engaged in lively discussion with many participants about why the fight for women’s rights is integral to the struggle to defend workers and our families from attack by the bosses and their governments, including fights for wages that match price hikes, access to child care, health care, family planning and safe and secure abortion.

An SWP literature table set up in the exhibit area attracted a lot of attention. Mary Bennett, a member of the Chicago NOW chapter, renewed her subscription for a year. She was waiting the next morning to talk with SWP

campaigners when they arrived at 8 a.m. to open up. “I need to understand what’s going on in Ukraine,” she said. Party campaigners discussed with her the SWP statement, “Defend Ukraine’s independence! For defeat of Moscow’s invasion! US troops, nuclear arms out of Europe, *all* of Europe,” which is available on the *Militant* website.

For full coverage of the conference see article on page 4.

In Federal Way, Washington, SWP campaigner Vincent Auger spoke with Walmart worker Hadya Ahmade about the *Militant*’s coverage on the fight for Ukraine independence and the record of the U.S. imperialist invasion of Afghanistan, the country where her family is from.

“She renewed her subscription,” Augur wrote, “and purchased nine books in Farsi.” These included translations of *Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun*; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power*; and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. “I want to expand my knowledge,” she said. “Reading the books in Farsi is easier.”

To help circulate the *Militant* and campaign for the SWP and its candidates, contact the nearest SWP branch listed on page 8.

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767 Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: www.pathfinderpress.com

'Militant' Renewal Drive June 25-August 2 (final chart)				
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Book quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Atlanta	18	21	18	22
Chicago	25	27	25	27
Cincinnati	18	23	18	18
Dallas-Ft. Worth	16	21	20	26
Lincoln	5	5	5	6
Los Angeles	25	30	25	30
Miami	7	13	7	8
Minneapolis	16	17	16	17
N. New Jersey	16	16	16	17
New York	25	27	25	26
Oakland	20	26	20	24
Philadelphia	8	9	8	8
Pittsburgh	12	14	12	14
Seattle	16	19	15	23
Washington	13	14	13	14
Total U.S.	240	282	243	280
Prisoners		26		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London*	12	13	25	25
Manchester	10	11	10	12
Total U.K.	22	24	35	37
Canada	25	28	25	28
New Zealand	5	7	5	9
Australia	7	5	7	3
Total	299	372	315	357
SHOULD BE	300	300	300	300
*Raised goal				

How to advance women’s rights is debated at NOW conference

BY MAGGIE TROWE

CHICAGO — Some 250 women and men gathered for the National Organization for Women conference here July 22-24 to discuss how to advance the fight for women’s equality at a time when soaring prices and a deepening capitalist crisis are wreaking havoc on working people, our families and our unions.

The conference took place in the wake of the June 24 U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* that overturned the court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, ruling that it had no basis in the Constitution. The court then had acted as if it were a legislative body, not a court, to create a way to decriminalize abortion across the country. Their ruling cut short the public fight needed to win support for women’s rights. The *Dobbs* ruling neither approves nor bans abortion, but returns that decision to the people and their elected representatives.

A number of Socialist Workers Party members participated, taking part in wide-ranging discussions in workshops, over meals and at the busy information tables outside the conference hall, including one staffed by party members.

The conference theme — “Save our democracy, vote for womxn’s lives!” — expressed the view of the NOW leadership that a rising rightist threat — led by former President Donald Trump and an “illegitimate” Supreme Court — is dealing blows to women’s rights and other hard-fought conquests. Many make the false claim that the *Dobbs* ruling makes abortion illegal.

Their solution, presented to the conference, is to subordinate everything to electing Democrats. “We cannot lose the Senate or House,” Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority and former NOW president, told the conference.

Opportunities for discussion

At the same time, many participants were open to discussing a working-class perspective. Some are active in the labor movement, fights against police brutality and other struggles, as well actions in defense of women’s rights.

Stephanie Jutras, a mental health counselor in Dallas, joined SWP members Kaitlin Estill and Naomi Craine for lunch. Craine is the SWP candidate for Illinois governor.

“We can’t start with abortion in the fight for women’s emancipation,” Estill said. “We have to start from the broader assaults on working people, and our fight against attacks by bosses and their government on our jobs, wages, social conditions like child care and health care, and our rights that are tearing apart our families and lives.”

“A young person can’t imagine having children if you can’t even get a place of your own,” Craine added. “And for working-class families who want to adopt children, the process is tied up in red tape. Part of this fight is for access to family planning, including contraception and abortion for those who need it.”

“The ability to have or not have children and then to be able to support them should be a right,” Jutras replied.

“A lot of the strikes recently have been over irregular schedules and

forced overtime,” said Craine, a railroad conductor and member of the SMART-TD union.

“In the old days, the thinking was eight hours of work, eight hours of sleep, and eight hours to spend how you liked,” Jutras responded.

“Getting back to the eight-hour workday would be progress for the working class,” Craine said, “and for those trying to raise a family. It’s important to support strikes against attacks on wages and working conditions, like the United Mine Workers strike against Warrior Met Coal in Alabama. We’ve turned a corner from the all-time low of labor resistance. Working people need to build a labor party that represents our class interests, in elections and in labor and social struggles.”

Jutras liked what Estill and Craine said when they explained Cuba’s socialist revolution — what it shows about the capacities of working people to take political power into our own hands. She got a *Militant* subscription and said she’d contact the SWP in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Debate over perspectives

Pessimism about openings to win support for women’s rights pervaded conference presentations. “There’s no good news,” David Stewart, vice president of Quad Cities, Iowa, NOW, told a workshop on “Abortion Access in Codified Roe States.” Panelists discussed hunkering down to make “abortion sanctuaries” in Democratic Party-dominated states, such as Illinois, New York and California.

“Let’s not call those who oppose abortion backward or rightist,” I said in the discussion. “Let’s win people in every state to defend the ability of workers to have a family, including women’s access to contraception and abortion.”

“Roe was a blow to the fight for women’s equality. It undercut the fight for hearts and minds that was just be-



Colorado Public Radio/Hart Van Denburg

National Organization for Women conference took place July 22-24, as deepening capitalist crisis wreaks havoc on working people, our families and our unions. Above, Heather Hernandez after being forced to quit her job last year as schools closed during the pandemic.

ginning, imposing a policy many hadn’t yet been convinced of. The *Dobbs* decision was right, *Roe* was unconstitutional. Working people need a court that upholds protections in the Constitution, not one that makes legislation.

“Democrats have the presidency and both houses of Congress,” I added, “and how has that helped working people or women?” A few people applauded.

In a workshop on “Global Feminists,” SWP member Ilona Gersh described how leaders of Cuba’s socialist revolution fought to advance the full participation of women at all levels, providing maternity hospitals and child care and decriminalizing abortion.

“What about human rights violations in Cuba?” interjected workshop chairperson NOW New Jersey President Anjali Mehrotra.

Thirteen administrations — Democrat and Republican alike — have tried to overturn the Cuban Revolution, I replied. “The U.S. rulers carry out an economic war against the Cuban people and they spread lies about their revolution. While they face problems, which Cubans openly discuss, especially from Washington’s attacks, it’s a country where human solidarity dominates so-

cial relations and where the emancipation of women has made huge strides.”

Pramila Venkateswaran, a Nassau Community College English professor and a member of Suffolk County NOW, said, “I think solidarity is so important,” pointing to support won by farmers in India fighting to defend their livelihoods, union workers in Bangladesh and by the Dalit, people belonging to the lowest social “castes” in India. In the workshop “Climate Justice is a Women’s Rights Issue,” Gabrielle Prosser, SWP candidate for Minnesota governor, responded to comments blaming men for “dominating women and nature.”

“We need to organize on a class basis. Men aren’t the problem,” she said. “All wealth comes from labor and nature, and capitalism exploits both. Only the working class can be the steward of nature.”

SWP members got a hearing when we presented a working-class road forward and found a number of conferencegoers who sought us out for more discussion. Twenty subscriptions to the *Militant*, and 53 books on revolutionary working-class politics were picked up by participants.

UAW strikers at Case demand better pay, conditions

BY DAN FEIN
AND JOHN HAWKINS

STURTEVANT, Wis. — As negotiations are set to reopen between Case New Holland bosses and the United Auto Workers, whose members struck May 2, few on the union side of the table are ready to give in.

“We’re not going to take anything back to our membership that we don’t think meets their needs. That’s our starting point in these negotiations,” UAW Local 180 President Yasin Mahdi told the *Militant* July 31.

“The earnings reports that just came out say they are making a profit. But production is down and they’re not shipping product,” Mahdi said. “In fact, it wouldn’t surprise me if they’re getting a lot of stuff sent back from the dealers because it wasn’t assembled properly in the first place.”

The 600 UAW Local 180 members here, and 430 members of UAW Local 807 in Burlington, Iowa, voted by over 98% to strike when their old contract ran out at the end of April.

Case New Holland is an international conglomerate that manufactures agricultural implements and earthmoving equipment. It’s the third largest producer

of earthmoving equipment in the world behind Caterpillar and Komatsu.

Since New Holland bought Case in 1999, the bosses have been on a drive to trim their workforce and drive down wages and working conditions.

Morale among the strikers remains high. Workers on the picket lines here July 28 and two days later in Burlington told the *Militant* they were determined to win their demands.

“They’re paying the temps roughly what we proposed to get in wages. That tells me they’re trying to get rid of the union,” Richie Wallace, a welder in Burlington, said. Before the strike, “management told us if we weren’t union we could get the money we ‘deserve.’”

At another gate, Zach Clark said, “What worries me most is the insurance. The deductible they want will never get paid. The insurance will eat up any pay raise. No thanks,” he said.

Strikers told us about a union pantry that has been set up at the firehouse in Gulfport, Illinois, across the Mississippi River from Burlington. The wife of the mayor there is one of the strikers.

“The company imposed a two-tier

wage structure years ago. If you do the same job, you should receive the same pay. Tiers divide the workforce. It creates animosity among workers,” said Karl Rogall, who’s worked at Case New Holland for 50 years.

“We need more vacation time to spend with our families,” Vivian Judson said. “Mandatory overtime is also an issue. The company wants us to work three Saturdays per month — we’re already forced to work two Saturdays per month.”

“The solidarity we have received has been tremendous and it really helps us keep going. It even comes from workers outside North America,” Mahdi said. “We recently received a message of solidarity from our sister plant in Basildon, England, where the corporate international headquarters is located.”

Help get the word out about the strike and win solidarity! Contributions and messages of support can be sent to UAW Local 180, 3323 Kearney Ave., Mount Pleasant, WI 53403, and UAW Local 807, 9313 Koestner St., Burlington, IA 52601.

Naomi Craine, Dean Hazlewood, and Leroy Watson contributed to this article.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Rail workers strike in U.K. for pay raise, against job cuts

MANCHESTER, England — Tens of thousands of rail and telecommunication workers struck across the U.K. at the end of July, refusing to accept below inflation pay and attacks on their conditions. Retail inflation here is running at 11%, a 40-year high.

Five thousand train drivers, members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, struck for a day at seven rail companies July 30. Further strike action is scheduled for Aug. 13 involving drivers from nine companies. Some 40,000 rail workers, members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, struck for better pay and against job cuts July 27 and plan further strike days Aug. 18 and 20.

Latest to join the actions were some 40,000 engineers and call center workers at British Telecom, organized by the Communication Workers Union. They struck July 29 and Aug. 1. Some 115,000 Royal Mail postal workers, also members of the CWU, have voted 97.6% in favor of strike action.

“We can’t afford to strike, but we can’t afford not to strike,” Mark Gray, chair of Scotland No. 1 CWU branch, told the *Militant* at the picket line at Portlethen, near Aberdeen, Scotland, July 29.

“Why should we pay for inflation?” Ian Tomlinson, a striking British Telecom worker, told this worker-correspondent, when I joined the CWU’s picket line here, along with four other rail workers. “We have pickets up at 17 locations all over Manchester. We’re solid.”

These actions mark a change. In 2018 some 39,000 workers were part of union disputes and just 33,000 in 2017, the lowest figures on record. In the last week of July alone, more than 85,000 workers joined union actions.

Reacting to this development is a feature of divisions riling the governing Conservative and opposition Labour parties. Conservative Elizabeth Truss, front-runner to replace Boris Johnson as

prime minister after he quit last month, threatens to ramp up anti-union measures. She proposes to cut union strike pay by taxing it, extend from two weeks to four the notice unions must give for a strike and impose other restrictions.

Not to be outdone in defending the bosses’ interests, Labour leader Keir Starmer said his party “doesn’t go on picket lines,” and sacked shadow Transport Minister Sam Tarry for joining the July 27 RMT action.

— Pete Clifford

Minneapolis Starbucks workers strike for hiring, union contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Some 25 workers in a south Minneapolis Starbucks went on strike, picketing on Cedar Avenue South here for two days starting July 31. The bosses were forced to close the store for both days as all the workers honored the picket lines.

Ethan Tinklenberg, one of the leaders of the walkout, said that they were members of Workers United, affiliated with the Service Employees International Union. He said that in the Minneapolis area, four Starbucks stores had voted to unionize and three more were organizing to do the same.

Workers said the main problem was understaffing, causing a large turnover.

Jade Schmeling, 23, told the *Militant*



Militant/Mary Martin

Workers picket Starbucks at Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis Aug. 1, second day of two-day strike over low wages and understaffing. Workers had recently voted to unionize the store.

that due to the low wages and lack of hours she has to work two other jobs to make ends meet. She said this was her first experience in union organizing. “We came together to push for what we deserve.”

Emily Mahoney, another member of the organizing committee, said, “We need more pay. We need health care. We need safety. When we heard about the union organizing Starbucks in Buf-

falo, New York, a lot of us thought let’s do this here.”

David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Minnesota’s 5th C.D. here, joined the picket line and asked Schmeling about the support the workers were receiving. “I know things are not going to change overnight but support, including from you, is awesome,” she said.

— Edwin Fruit

Teamsters make gains in strike at FireKing in Indiana

BY AMY HUSK

NEW ALBANY, Ind. — Teamsters Local 89 members at FireKing voted unanimously to ratify a five-year contract July 30 after a hard-fought 12-week strike. The new contract, described in a statement by the union, includes “a radically overhauled, low deductible insurance plan that will provide significant savings” to the local’s 83 members; a 22% increase in wages over the five years; faster vacation accrual; and an additional paid holiday.

FireKing manufactures fireproof safes and cabinets. It was bought up by Champlain Capital Partners, a so-called private equity fund, in 2020. These types of funds are groups of wealthy capitalist

investors who are notorious for buying companies, boosting their income by an aggressive use of debt, going after workers’ wages and benefits, and then selling them off for maximum profits. They had hoped to improve their position at the expense of FireKing’s workers.

“It’s been almost three months,” John Rickman, an assembly line “skinner” who has worked at FireKing for 23 years, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent when I visited the picket line three days before the settlement along with other strike supporters from Indiana and Ohio. “They’re playing hardball, but we ain’t going back until we think it’s right.”

“They want to break the union,” add-

ed striker Dana Tracey. “The big issue is the health insurance plan. The company plan is too expensive. I pay \$209 twice a month and then pay several thousand dollars a year in copays and deductibles. Some workers pay up to \$13,000! I pay \$800 for an emergency room visit and \$60 for a specialist. It adds up, and after 23 years I only make \$19 an hour.”

While we were there, a number of truckers passed by honking their air horns loud and long in support of the strikers. “The drivers from Estes Trucking told us the FireKing bosses told their boss to make them stop honking,” Rickman said. “But a lot of them still do it.”

At the main truck gate on Industrial Boulevard we met striker Veronica Tillery, who was hired a year ago, along with a number of other workers.

“They have a hard time holding onto workers because of conditions in the plant,” she said. “There’s no climate control so in most places it’s 20 degrees hotter inside than it is outside. Other places are freezing.”

Reese Funkhouser, who is 21 and has worked at FireKing for a year, said he had never been on a picket line before. “Unions are important,” he said. “If we don’t stand up for ourselves, the bosses will walk all over us.”

Some strikers described how they were able to convince replacement workers to not cross the picket line. Dale Beanblossom, a picket captain, said he spoke with a young woman who was there for orientation. “She said her father was a union man and she didn’t want to cross a picket line. She went back in for the orientation so she could convince other workers not to take the jobs.”

“Some of the young people don’t even know what a union is!” Tracey said. “We told one young guy our union was on strike. He called his dad, who said, ‘If they’re on strike, get the hell out of there,’ and he did.”

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 25, 1997, Supplement

In the face of an all-out assault by United Parcel Service, 185,000 striking Teamster members are standing firm against the nation’s largest delivery company. Rallies in support of the striking Teamsters have been taking place across the country.

Each day the stakes in this battle rise. The central issues — the fight for better pay and conditions for part-time workers, the company’s attempt to gut the pension plans, the union’s demand that UPS hire more workers full-time, and health and safety issues — have touched a nerve in workplaces across the country.

“Most unions have allowed our wages and working conditions to slip,” said Eugene Phillips, a 43-year-old feeder driver in Northbrook, Illinois. “Now we are looking at the damage. Unions have to get a lot stronger because the next fight will be larger and more difficult.”



August 11, 1972

On the morning of July 31, 13,000 British troops mounted the largest military operation yet undertaken in Northern Ireland, smashing through the concrete and steel barricades that have ringed many Catholic areas for more than a year.

In preparation for the operation, 4,000 more troops were brought. This raises the total strength of the British garrison to 21,000. The main target was “Free Derry” — the Bogside and Creggan districts of Derry, which have a population of 35,000. Free Derry, the largest of the areas declared off limits to the British, was invaded by 4,000 British soldiers and 300 armored vehicles.

Although the army is attempting to avoid some of the excesses it has been guilty of in the past, its occupation of the Catholic ghettos will soon result in increasing conflict with the people living there.



August 18, 1947

A labor party could mobilize into its ranks a possible 37 million members. This is the frank admission of Daniel Tobin, president of the 900,000-member AFL Teamsters to the union’s convention. Tobin is one of the most conservative union officials, a loyal servant of the Democratic Party. He boasted to the convention that he has fought the labor party idea for 41 years.

A labor party, based on the unions, would rally to its fold the greatest and most powerful political mass movement this country has ever known.

Such an admission from Tobin reflects the enormous growth of rank-and-file labor sentiment for a party of their own to smash the political monopoly of Wall Street and wipe out the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. Let labor’s ranks rise up in their wrath and repudiate such craven and treacherous leaders. The labor party must be built — NOW!

How Cuban Revolution began

Continued from front page

a new stage in our nation's struggle to achieve our true independence," Ambassador Gala said. It had been celebrated earlier that week in Cuba with participation by Army General Raúl Castro and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

The 1953 action "meant the solidification of a revolutionary movement that never wavered in its struggle until achieving the final victory on Jan. 1, 1959," Gala said. The Cuban Revolution "remains strong because our people inherited throughout its history solid concepts and revolutionary principles from men and women who gave everything."

Clark highlighted the class composition of the young combatants — including bricklayers, masonry workers, carpenters, peasants and farmworkers, and factory workers. "The socialist character of the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution and the Marxist character of its leadership are what make it so decisively important for working people the world over," Clark said.

Sixty-five people attended the special Militant Labor Forum, sponsored by the New York and Northern New Jersey branches of the SWP.

A drawing by a Cuban artist of Fidel Castro delivering closing remarks to the court that convicted him in October 1953 was among the displays around the room. Those remarks, known ever since as History Will Absolve Me, were printed clandestinely and used to popularize the program of the Cuban Revolution, carried out to the end by the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro.

Those in the audience recognized from the podium were Iván Casal and Yoangel Valido, second and third secretaries to Cuba's U.N. Mission; members of the New York/New Jersey Cuba Sí coalition; Wilma Paster from Acción Revolución, an Ecuadoran group; Alegna Cruz from the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party; and Juanita Young, whose son Malcolm Ferguson was killed by New York police in 2000. Young led a delegation of Mothers against Police Brutality to Cuba in May 2016.

A reception before and after the program gave participants an opportunity to meet the speakers and talk informally.

'Inhumane U.S. blockade'

Gala pointed to Washington's more than six-decades-long economic war against Cuba, carried out by every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower.

"During the Trump administration 243 unilateral coercive measures were adopted against Cuba," Gala said, and "remain in force under the

current U.S. administration. No Cuban family is spared the effects of this inhumane policy."

For 29 years, Gala said, the U.N. General Assembly "has adopted a resolution on the necessity of ending the blockade imposed by the U.S. against Cuba." The number of member states voting for the resolution has been increasing, with a tally of 184 to 2 in June 2021. "So, Cuba is on the right side of history!"

The next General Assembly vote is coming up this fall.

Solidarity and internationalism guide Cuba's foreign policy, Gala said. Cuba has developed three COVID-19 vaccines, whose benefits are "not limited to our borders." During the pandemic, Cuba has sent 57 brigades to 40 countries to help fight the virus.

The ambassador ended his remarks by quoting Fidel Castro. "If we had given up after Moncada ... we would have been defeated," Castro said at a July 26 celebration in 1967. "That should always be our attitude, and the great lesson of our history."

Affirming the pledge made by Raúl Castro at the 2018 Moncada celebration, Gala concluded to a standing ovation: "No matter how difficult the circumstances, no matter how great the challenges, our people will forever defend their socialist revolution."

'How are WE doing?'

Across the spectrum of bourgeois politics, Steve Clark pointed out, everyone keeps asking the question, "How is Cuba doing?"

"You hear it from right-wing opponents of the revolution," Clark said. "You hear it from liberals and the middle-class left. How well is Cuba doing in face of shortages and blackouts? Or on 'the race question'? Or 'winning the youth'? Or women and the family?"

Yes, of course, those are issues for Cuban working people and their leadership, Clark said. "But they're the *wrong question* to stew over for revolutionary-minded workers and youth here who support the Cuban Revolution."

"How are WE doing? That's the question the SWP is interested in," Clark said.

How are we doing in building the kind of working-class party that can organize and lead workers and farmers to emulate what Cuba's toilers showed is not only necessary but possible?

"How are we doing in advancing prospects for a socialist revolution in the U.S.? And lifting the never-ending imperialist economic and military pressure off Cuban working people?"

The Cuban Revolution, Clark said, "didn't just transform the lives, conditions, and political consciousness



Revolución/H. Maza

Fidel Castro gives defense speech at trial where he and 31 others were convicted for July 26, 1953, assault on Moncada barracks, known since as History Will Absolve Me. Fidel's speech became program of victorious 1959 struggle for Cuba's true independence and socialist revolution.

of workers and farmers in Cuba. It marked a renewal of communist leadership worldwide.

"The Socialist Workers Party wouldn't exist as the proletarian party we are today if it weren't for the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army leadership," Clark said.

In 1960 Jack Barnes, now the SWP's national secretary, visited Cuba for the summer. Clark urged participants to read about that experience in Barnes' book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, which describes the profound impact of the Cuban Revolution on politicizing workers and youth in the U.S. After returning, Barnes helped launch a Fair Play for Cuba Committee chapter at the Minnesota college he was attending and soon afterward joined the SWP.

In the book, Clark said, Barnes recalls a lasting lesson he learned at the time of the U.S. government-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961. Barnes wrote that he had "said something slightly ultraleft and self-serving over the phone to Ray Dunne about feeling guilty" that he wasn't in Cuba with young revolutionists he'd become friends with during his 1960 trip.

Dunne was a veteran SWP leader who'd been a founding member of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Teamsters organizing drives that brought hundreds of thousands of over-the-road truckers into the union in the 1930s.

"Ray was comradely but unsympathetic," Barnes wrote. "'You have no doubts about what the people you were closest to in Cuba are doing,' he told me. 'They're fighting. And they assume you're doing the same thing, wherever you are. So you better prove them right and stop pandering to your emotions.'"

That lesson, Clark said, is central to the SWP's program and course: Proletarian internationalism begins with building a communist party to advance the socialist revolution right where you are.

"That's our pledge to comrades in Cuba," Clark said. "That's why when SWP members speak at events there and talk informally with Cubans, our number one job is to explain what we're doing to live up to that pledge."

"Cuban workers and farmers and their lead-

ers have done their part for 69 years and counting," Clark said. "The Socialist Workers Party puts to ourselves — and to working people and youth we talk with and join in battles alongside — Fidel's programmatic and action guide in History Will Absolve Me:

"Not 'We promise to give you this or that.'"

"But, 'Organize and fight with everything you have.'"

End U.S. economic war on Cuba!

Other speakers at the event were Sussen Gazal, active in the July 26 Coalition in Boston, and Chris Hoepfner, the party's candidate in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District.

Gazal described her February 2020 trip to Cuba. What she experienced there, she said, convinced her when she returned that she "had a responsibility to educate, inform, protest, so more people could spread the truth about Cuba and demand an end to the blockade."

Hoepfner, a freight conductor on the railroad, described talking with co-workers about lessons the working class can and must learn here from the socialist revolution in Cuba. Hoepfner also reported on the successful effort to collect more than 2,400 signatures to put his name on the ballot as the SWP candidate for Congress in Philadelphia (see article on front page).

The program ended with a toast led by Clark and Gala to the 160 combatants who opened the fight for Cuba's true independence and socialist revolution in 1953, as well as for an end to Washington's economic war and travel restrictions against the Cuban Revolution.



Militant/Mike Shur

Steve Clark, SWP National Committee member, a featured speaker at New York event, said, "The Cuban Revolution marked a renewal of communist leadership worldwide."



Militant/Mike Shur

Part of the audience of 65 at July 30 meeting in New York City celebrating 69th anniversary of the revolutionary assault led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada garrison in Santiago de Cuba.

Support Ukraine independence! Russian troops get out now!

Continued from front page

Since acquiring longer-range weaponry over the last few weeks, Ukrainian forces have liberated 44 villages and towns in the Kherson region. Posters in Russian-occupied Kherson continue to appear on city walls demanding, “Occupier, leave now!”

The bodies of 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war were found incinerated and another 75 badly injured after an explosion in the Olenivka prison in the Russian-occupied Donetsk region July 29. There were no casualties among prison guards or Russian forces.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the attack “a deliberate mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war” by Moscow-backed forces. The Kremlin claims the blast was caused by a Ukrainian rocket attack that it says was aimed at preventing the prisoners from testifying against their own government’s alleged war crimes.

The captured soldiers were mainly from the Azov Regiment. They had laid down their arms in mid-May under orders from Kyiv after defending themselves and hundreds of civilians in the fortified basement of a huge steel mill during Moscow’s murderous siege of Mariupol. They are regarded as national heroes in Ukraine. Kyiv officials had arranged a prisoner swap for some of them and were trying to liberate more.

Rightist politicians in Moscow have called for charging the Azov Regiment members as “neo-Nazis,” and demand they face death sentences.

“Only the solidarity of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian toilers and their class allies here and around the world can get Russian troops out of all of Ukraine,” Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Texas, told the *Militant* Aug. 2. “However, sanctions imposed on Moscow are an obstacle, not a help, as they fall hardest on working people, providing a handle for Putin to claim Ukraine, not his regime, is responsible for what faces them.”

Putin is pursuing his war of attrition, anticipating that energy shortages and the deepening economic disruption will convince Washington and other imperialist powers to press Kyiv’s leaders to make territorial concessions to Moscow and end the defense of their country.

Protests in Russia despite crackdown

“Hardly any anti-war protest takes place in Russia today without harassment or prosecution by the police and the FSB,” Moscow’s political police, the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection



Group reported July 31. The Kremlin arrested more than 15,000 protesters at the start of the war.

Nonetheless, the Kharkiv organization reports weekly that people across Russia find ways to defy the authorities and express their opposition to Putin’s slaughter. And they find sym-

pathy and support from others.

The human rights group in late July listed numerous people who displayed signs reading, “No to the war!” or “Peace to Ukraine!” or “Putin, resign!” — from St. Petersburg to Moscow and from the North Caucasus to Siberia. Some were detained by po-

lice and charged with “discrediting” the Russian army and fined, and most of them quickly released.

Marina Ovsyannikova, a former Channel One TV editor, left the country after being briefly detained when she interrupted Russia’s most-watched evening news broadcast in March to hold up an anti-war sign. She returned to Russia last month and was again detained briefly after a solo protest outside the Kremlin. Russian authorities “are trying to denigrate me,” she told the *Moscow Times*.

“Since I’m back in Russia I’m using it as an opportunity to express my anti-war position, but we’ll see what happens next. Anyway I’m not going to leave the country,” she said.

Despite local police charging Dmitry Skurikhin several times, his village shop in northwest Russia remains emblazoned with “Peace to Ukraine! Freedom to Russia!” In blood-red letters it lists numerous Ukrainian cities. “I want to draw society’s attention to the towns and cities of Ukraine that are suffering today,” he was quoted in the Kharkiv Human Rights group’s newsletter July 19, “to show how many of them there are.”

“My neighbors fully support me.”

Belarus regime threatens death penalty for ‘rail partisans’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Three Belarusian rail workers who could face the death penalty are going to trial facing government charges of “terrorism” and “treason.” This is part of a broader assault on the trade union movement of Belarus as the dictatorial regime of President Alexander Lukashenko tries to clamp down on opposition to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. The actual crime that Dzmitry Ravich, Dzyanis Dikun and Aleh Malchanau, known as the Svetlahorsk Partisans, are accused of is setting fire to a railway signal control cabinet in the Gomel region March 1.

This was four days after Russian forces, backed by the Belarus regime, used the country as one of their staging grounds for invading Ukraine. The three were arrested days afterward.

From March into April, Belarus partisans, including some rail workers, carried out dozens of actions to make tracks unusable, doing so in ways that assured no danger to train workers or others. Some drivers refused to run trains carrying Russian military equipment.

Online attacks by a group of “cyberpartisans” crippled the computerized control of the country’s rail network, creating more delays. Trainloads of arms, troops and supplies were held up for weeks. These actions by the “rail partisans” aided the valiant Ukrainian resistance that stopped and repelled Moscow’s planned assault on Kyiv.

In addition to these partisans, the Lukashenko regime has detained several leaders of Belarus’ unions, including officers of the Belarusian Congress of Trade Unions, Free Trade Union of Belarus and others.

Since March, Lukashenko’s secret police, the KGB, has ar-

rested about 60 people for railroad disruptions. At least 11 face similar charges to the first three. The Community of Belarusian Railway Workers has been branded an “extremist group.”

The regime’s prosecutors have extended accusations of “terrorist activities” to 870 people already incarcerated. It moved April 27 to expand the death penalty law to try to deter further opposition to Moscow’s assault. Armed special forces in plain clothes have begun to patrol the rail lines.

In videos posted on a pro-Moscow Telegram channel mid-April, reminiscent of the Stalinist Moscow show trials of the 1930s, 38 rail workers “admit” to having committed acts of sabotage under “foreign influence.”

As part of backing Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war effort, Lukashenko held a sham referendum Feb. 27 to

allow Russian nuclear missiles on Belarusian territory. The day of the poll, mass protests erupted in the streets of Minsk, the capital, and elsewhere. Carrying Ukrainian flags, people chanted, “No to war!” “Glory to Ukraine!” and “Long live Belarus!” The police rapidly cracked down, making more than 800 arrests in over a dozen cities.

Putin’s invasion of Ukraine is opposed by millions across Belarus. Polls show less than one in 20 support Belarusian soldiers being sent into Ukraine to fight alongside Russian forces. Even within the Belarus military brass there is opposition to joining the invasion.

The July annual conference of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union in the U.K. currently waging a strike battle of its own over jobs, wages and conditions, called for the release of the jailed and framed-up Belarusian unionists.

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What’s the Socialist Workers Party doing to emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution?

Read the *Militant’s* coverage of the SWP’s International Active Workers Conference — “Taking the Socialist Workers Party’s program to the toilers: Conference discusses working-class response to capitalist crises, sets party convention” by Steve Clark and Terry Evans (July 4 issue in English, July 11 in Spanish, and coming in French)

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1969 'Cordobazo' in Argentina posed working class taking power

This special feature is from *The Leninist Strategy of Party Building: The Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America* by Joseph Hansen, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, cited in last week's article, "Argentine military officer found guilty for 1972 Trelew massacre." As prerevolutionary conditions and struggles developed in Latin America, Hansen helped lead the international fight to build communist parties rooted in the struggles of the working class and its allies to take power. This excerpt is from "The Lesson of Argentina" in the chapter "Argentina and Bolivia — the Balance Sheet." Copyright © 1979 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

SPECIAL FEATURE

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

Since May 1969 the situation in Argentina has been prerevolutionary.

In that month the country was shaken by mass struggles touched off by student protests. A general strike paralyzed Rosario, Argentina's second largest city. Major flare-ups followed in various cities, the biggest and most violent being in Córdoba, hence the name *Cordobazo* for this historic struggle. The two big trade union federations called a nationwide solidarity strike. This widespread upsurge in May amounted to a semi-insurrection.



Workers' uprising in Córdoba, Argentina, May 1969. Agustín Tosco, left in front, a leader of the "Cordobazo," was a class-struggle-minded worker and secretary of energy workers union Luz y Fuerza (Light and Power). What was missing was a revolutionary party and leadership.

The use of the term *semi-insurrection* rather than *spontaneous rebellion* or *uprising* is deliberate. It accurately indicates the nature of the struggle — in the streets, with masses confronting the army and police; and the target the masses had in mind — the national government. What gave it the character of a semi-insurrection was the clear political aim of the mobilizations and confrontations — to bring down the government.

That is the profound difference from the uprisings in the Black ghettos in the United States, which were spontaneous rebellions, with no specific political demands either explicit or implicit.

But even the Argentine explosions were not insurrections. For that, a revolutionary leadership applying a clear program for the conquest of power was required. None of the mobilizations of the working class in Argentina has had this feature.

We have characterized the situation in Argentina since May 1969 as "pre-revolutionary" for various reasons:

1. The confusion in government circles, and the bourgeois forces generally, has grown more and more intense as they flounder about, trying to find a way out of the critical economic situation and trying to derail or break the back of the rising mass movement.

2. The petty bourgeoisie is losing all confidence in the capitalist system, and significant sectors are inclining toward revolutionary or prosocialist positions.

3. The working class wants a revolutionary change in the government. It has lost all confidence in the government as the various regimes have succeeded each other, without ameliorating but only worsening the crisis racking the country.

It is true that the bulk of the working class still has confidence in Peronism politically. But that is because they believe, mistakenly, that through Peronism a means can be found to change the system. In other words, they are still not aware that the Peronist party is bourgeois. This is one of the consequences of the denial of Perón's democratic rights and his exile from the country for seventeen years.

The main obstacles blocking the workers from moving toward state power in the present situation consist of the bureaucratic leadership of the trade unions, the only existing mass organizations of the proletariat, and General Perón, the unquestioned leader of the toiling masses.

The great problem facing the Argentine revolutionary movement is how to transform the prerevolutionary situation into a revolutionary one, that is, into a direct struggle for power. ...

The uprisings in Rosario and Córdoba altered the relationship of class forces. The retreat of the working class came to an end. Already significant efforts had been made to fight back, but these had been defeated. Now the working class

began to take the offensive. The masses, in various stages, dealt a series of blows to successive bourgeois regimes, gaining concessions in the process.

The ruling class has oscillated between repression and concessions. This maneuvering, however, has necessarily been confined within the limits of the general crisis that has racked Argentina. The country's semicolonial standing has not enabled the bourgeoisie to grant significant concessions except for the period immediately following World War II. The concessions that have been granted, whether of a minimal economic nature or more typically in the field of democratic rights, have only served to encourage the workers and to lead them to broaden their offensive.

The first semi-insurrections were met with a selective repression. During the whole period since 1966, the ruling class has not carried out a single massacre of the mass movement. While accurate figures are not available, it may well be that there were more casualties in the October 1968 massacre in Mexico City than in all six years of military rule in Argentina, in which a series of mass uprisings occurred. This is not because the Argentine ruling class is any less brutal or bloodthirsty than the Mexican ruling class, but because they understand the explosiveness of the class struggle and the inherent power of the proletariat in Argentina.

Bending with the pressure of the first Cordobazo, the government promised a relaxation of the repression. Once it felt that the situation was somewhat safe, the government disregarded its promise and resumed its hard line. The response from the workers was a resumption of mass actions, paralyzing strikes hitting the cities and sometimes extending to a provincial and national level. In various minor cities, general strikes were accompanied by militant street demonstrations. (It should be noted, however, that mass demonstrations in the streets with the setting up of barricades and clashes with the police have not occurred in a similar way in Buenos Aires with its population of 8,000,000.) ...

Each change of government marked an attempt to avoid a direct confrontation with the masses and to divert them away from street struggles pointing in the direction of an insurrectionary general strike on a national scale.

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No to nuclear arms! Emulate Cuba's example

On Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, the U.S. capitalist rulers unleashed a nuclear inferno on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians were instantly incinerated or died agonizing deaths from burns and radiation poisoning. To the U.S. propertied ruling class this was necessary to ensure Washington's domination of the Pacific and of the imperialist "world order" that came out of its victory in the World War II.

While Washington cynically claimed this slaughter was needed to win "peace," the *Militant* headline Aug. 18 said, "There is no peace! Only world socialism can save mankind from atomic destruction in another imperialist war!"

The dog-eat-dog competition of rival capitalist powers drive them to expand their nuclear arsenals in preparation for new wars. The inevitable consequences of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and its attempt to subjugate that country's people are the moves by capitalist powers worldwide to acquire all manner of armaments to prepare for future conflicts.

The vast military might wielded in every corner of the globe by the U.S. ruling class is the counterpart to the bosses' assaults on the jobs, wages, families, social conditions and political rights workers face here at home.

Today the logic of imperialist competition and its wars from Korea to Iraq, Vietnam to Afghanistan, is clearer for workers to see — a march toward fascism, war and nuclear annihilation. The stakes for working people in organizing to prevent this are enormous. But before the rulers can inflict the horrors of a third world war, we will have our chance to overturn the rule of the capitalist war makers and take political power into our own hands. Through our battles on the picket lines and in the factories, mines and mills, we can forge the working-class party and Marxist leadership we need

— one that can lead millions to take power and establish a workers and farmers government.

The Socialist Workers Party demands Washington immediately and unconditionally abolish its nuclear arsenal. Like Cuba's revolutionary leadership, the SWP calls on all nine governments that hold nuclear weapons to get rid of them, and any others that are planning to acquire them to renounce doing so.

"We have never considered producing nuclear weapons," Fidel Castro, the central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution, told students in Havana in 2005. "We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power and it is the immense justice for which we are struggling. Our nuclear weapon is the invincible power of moral weapons." This is the line of march of the working people.

Cuba's socialist revolution is a powerful example of what working people are capable of and what we can and must do here. This is the only road to assure once and for all that the capitalist rulers — or any of its equally bloodthirsty rivals — will never use nuclear weapons again.

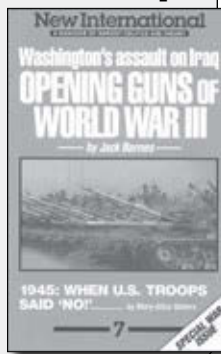
Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes
in *New International* no. 7

The devastation in Iraq did not lead to the dawn of a new world order. The Gulf war held a mirror to the declining capitalist world order and accelerated its contradictions.

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Rail workers protest for jobs, pay, right to strike

Continued from front page

29% over the last six years while their profits soared. They are pressing to cut the conductor on road trains, leaving only an engineer as a one-person "crew."

"This is a fight for the whole labor movement," Greg Regan, president of the Transportation Trades Division of the AFL-CIO, told the rally.

To make up for lack of enough workers, the bosses have been imposing harsher attendance policies, including increasing the penalties on "high impact days" for "unauthorized" time off — taken by workers when they're ill or have family responsibilities. Rail workers are often on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with schedules that can run 12 hours, with only 10 hours "rest" before you can be called out again.

BNSF imposed its "Hi-Viz" attendance policy in February. In response, conductors and engineers there voted to authorize a strike, but the company obtained a court injunction barring a walkout. The judge admitted that the new rules are "harsh," but claimed they were only "minor" changes.

"We need to get rid of this attendance policy," Marlon Beal, a member of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Local 391 in Galesburg, told the *Militant*. "There are workers with 17 years seniority that are quitting."

"We need wage increases," Beal said. "Prices have gone up and our buying power has gone down. The companies offered just over half of what we were seeking in wages. It's an insult! When I hired on we paid nothing for health insurance. Now it's over \$200 a month and they want to increase that."

"And they want to get the conductor off the train. That's safety. Talking with the conductor is what keeps me awake on the road."

The rail bosses admit that their pay offer doesn't

keep up with the rate of inflation, but claim that it does keep "pace with the broader labor market."

Dan Hudgins, another Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen member from Galesburg, scoffed at the bosses' claim that technology such as "positive train control" — which automatically slows or stops trains that go over speed limits — makes it safe to run with a one-person crew. "There's too much territory to know and too many speed traps," he said.

"In maintenance, we've been losing people like flies," Tom Modica, a member of Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1532 from Chicago, told the *Militant*. "We used to have five or six workers on a section gang," a crew working on a stretch of track, "now it's down to two or three."

Rail union members have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. But President Joseph Biden July 17 invoked the anti-labor 1926 Railway Labor Act, barring a strike and appointing a Presidential Emergency Board to try to arbitrate a settlement. They've got 30 days to propose a settlement. Then another 30-day "cooling off" period is imposed before workers can legally strike.

"If rail workers all came together, we'd have more power than the president and Congress," Michael Luther, vice president of BMW Local 783 in Galesburg, said.

"I'm from Galesburg," said Aaron Kennelly, a production engineer at Case New Holland in Burlington, Iowa, where United Auto Workers members are on strike. Despite being a salaried worker, he has refused to cross the UAW picket line and has become a stalwart of the strike. "BNSF is the main employer in town. I have friends who work there who loved their job, and now they're miserable, including with the draconian attendance policy. We've had rail workers come out to the Case picket line, and I wanted to return the favor."

Another Rally for Rail Labor will take place in Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 20, and others are being planned in Minneapolis and elsewhere.

Naomi Craine is a member of SMART-TD Local 1494 in Chicago.

Fight 'Militant' ban!

Continued from front page

or discipline of the institution." Along with the notice, prison authorities returned the banned issue as well as issue no. 25, although no rejection notice for that issue was included.

Attorney David Goldstein — from the prominent constitutional rights law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman — has informed prison officials he is preparing the *Militant's* appeal of the Phoenix ban.

The notice is in violation of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons' own regulations, which state that a rejection notice, "must contain reference to the specific article(s) or materials(s) considered objectionable." Not a single article or sentence from the banned issue is cited.

Nothing in the prison regulations authorize a ban for "political extremism," whatever that means. The bureau's rules explicitly say that a warden "may not reject a publication solely" because its political content is "unpopular or repugnant" in the eyes of prison officials.

The front page of issue no. 23 includes a feature article opposing Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and another titled "Gun violence, crime are result of today's crisis of capitalism." Inside is a feature explaining the importance of working people opposing antisemitism. There is also coverage of a strike by members of the United Mine Workers in Alabama, who have been on strike at Warrior Met Coal for 16 months, and other labor battles. Are these what the warden considers "political extremism" or "detrimental to the security" of the institution?

The *Militant* currently has nearly 200 inmate subscribers across the country, a dozen or so in federal facilities. Many of those subscribers have been receiving the paper for years, for the most part without problems. The *Militant* has also stood up, with overwhelming success, to numerous attempts over the last decade by state prison authorities in Florida and other states to suppress the paper.

Meanwhile, the *Nation*, a "progressive" magazine, has had at least five issues banned in Arizona state prisons over the last 18 months. With the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union Prison Project, the magazine is demanding prison officials release the suppressed issues.

"Prisoners have the constitutional right to read news and books of their choice, to consider different viewpoints, to form their own opinions," *Militant* editor John Studer said in an Aug. 1 interview. "The ban in Phoenix is a blatant attempt to violate that right and the right of the *Militant* to reach our subscribers precisely when growing numbers of working people on both sides of the prison walls are looking for a way forward out of today's crisis of capitalist rule."

"Our readers can aid the effort to overturn this unconstitutional ban," Studer said. "Get your union, church groups, community organizations and prominent individuals you know to write to the Federal Bureau of Prisons calling on them to reverse the ban. Circulate petitions among your co-workers that can be sent in."

PDF files of the two rejected issues can be viewed and downloaded at themilitant.com.

Send letters and petitions to Melissa Rios, Western Regional Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 7338 Shoreline Dr., Stockton, CA 95219, or via email to WXRO-ExecAssistant@bop.gov. Send copies to themilitant@mac.com.

LETTERS

Need more *Militants*!

Thank you so much for the free subscription to the *Militant*. It was well read, with at least six men reading it thoroughly and many others perusing it. It certainly provoked political conversations in here, a place where politics is the least of their troubles.

Unfortunately, on a wage of 60 cents an hour, we are unable to subscribe. We would be extremely grateful for more *Militants*!

*A prisoner
New Zealand*

Editor's note: We provide discounted subscriptions for readers behind bars: \$6 for 6 months or complimentary for those who can't afford that. See ad on this page.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners cut rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com